

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 22-42 are now pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10-12, 15-17, 20, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 34-42 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 22-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. In this reply, Applicant has rewritten these claims in independent form. Furthermore, because all other pending claims now depend from one of these allowed claims, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims should be indicated as allowable.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-9, 12-14, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Fujimoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,035,074). As mentioned above, all rejected claims have either been cancelled or amended to depend from an allowable independent claim. Therefore, the prior art rejection based on Fujimoto has been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact D. Richard Anderson (Reg. No. 40,439) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

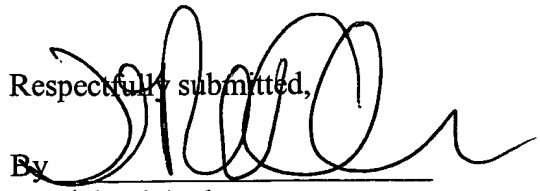
Application No. 09/748,247
Amendment dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

Docket No.: 2091-0226P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Richard Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

By
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